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அழிந்து போகுமென்றவொரு நம்பிக்கை இருக்கிறது Gazetted உத்தியோகஸ்தர்கள் மீனவர்களில் இல்லேயென்று சொன்னார்கள். வருந்தத்தக்க விஷயமாக இருந்தாலும், படிப்பில்லாத காரணத்தால் அவர்களுக்கு Gazetted உத்தியோகம் கொடுக்க முடியாமலிருக்கிறது. மேலும், ஒவ்வொரு உத்தியோகமும் படிப்பில்லாமல் கொடுக்க முடியாது. அவ்விதமானவொரு நிலைமை இதுவரை இருந்தாலும் இனிமேல் அவர்களை முன்னுக்குக் கொண்டு வருவதற்கு இருக்கின்ற சலுகைகளைப் பயன்படுத்தி இந்தச் சமூகத்திற்கு நல்லதோர் சேவை செய்யவேண்டுமென்று முற்பட்டால், நல்ல பலனேற்படும் என்று கருதுகிறேன். பின்தங்கிய வகுப்பினர் நிலையைக் கூறுவதோடு, அதற்கு உதவி செய்தால் நலமாக இருக்கும். உன்னதமானவொரு சூழ்நிலையை அங்கு கொண்டு வந்தால், அது அநேக நன்மைகளை அளிக்கும். தொழிலிலும் ஒரு அபிவிருத்தி ஏற்படும். இங்கு எல்லோருக்கும் தெரியும் சென்னையிலும் Hotel Oceanic— குக்கு எதிராக மீனவர்களுக்காகக் கட்டப்பட்ட அந்த கட்டிடத்தில்கூட அவர்கள் வராத காரணத்தினால், வேறு தொழில் செய்வோருக்கு அவை விடப்பட்டன. வேண்டுமென்றால், இந்தச் சமூகத்தை முன்னேற்ற எத்தனையோ வழிகளிருக்கின்றன. இங்கு இருக்கின்ற ஒரு குழு செய்து வரும் இந்த வேலைகளை, தனிப்பட்ட இன்னொரு குழு செய்ய வேண்டிய நிலைமை இல்லை. தவறாமல், அங்கத்தினர் கமிட்டிக் கூட்டத்திற்கு வந்து நல்ல ஆலோசனைகளைக் கொடுத்தால் இன்னும் அதிகமான விஷயங்களைப் பற்றி ஆராயவும் கவனிக்கவும் நிலைமை ஏற்படுமென்று தெரிவித்துக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

SRI K. T. KOSALRAM : On a point of information, Sir, 4–30 p.m. இந்த மீனவ சமூகத்தில் 'பறவன்' என்ற வகுப்பினர் இருக்கிறார்கள். அவர்களை ஷெடியூல் வகுப்பில் சேர்த்துக்கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்று அரசாங்கம் 1959-ம் வருஷம் ஜி.ஓ. இஷ்யூ செய்திருக்கிறார்கள். 1960 வரை அது அமல் நடத்தப்படவில்லை. அதன் பிறகு அதை அமல் நடத்த அரசாங்கம் யோசிக்குமா ?

THE HON. SRIMATHI LOURDHAMMAL SIMON : ஜாதி அடிப்படையில் எந்தெந்த ஜாதியை ஷெடியூல் வகுப்பில் எடுத்துக் கொள்ளவேண்டுமென்பதுபற்றி என்னிடம் தகவல் இல்லை. அதற்குப் பொறுப்பான மந்திரியிடம் கேட்டால் நன்றாக இருக்கும்.

VIDWAN T. M. MUTHUKANNAPPAN : அம்மையார் அவர்களுடைய விளக்கத்திற்கும் என் கருத்துக்கும் வேற்றுமையில்லை. இருந்தாலும் உள்ள நிலையைச் சொல்லி என் கடமையைச் செய்து விட்டேன் என்று திருப்தியடைகிறேன். இதனால் பலன் ஏற்படும் என்று எண்ணுகின்ற காரணத்தால், அதை நான் திரும்பப் பெற்றுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

(4) HOUSE-RENT ALLOWANCE TO TEACHERS.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sri G. Krishnamoorthy will now move his Resolution. He will please make a short speech.

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SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Mr. Chairman, I move—

" This Council recommends to the Government that teachers in aided elementary and secondary schools in the State be granted House-Rent allowance at rates applicable to Government employees in the respective areas and that teachers in such of the District Board institutions as have not been given the benefit of this allowance be also granted this allowance, at rates applicable to Government employees in such localities ".

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : I second the Resolution, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Resolution moved—

' This Council recommends to the Government that teachers in aided elementary and secondary schools in the State be granted House-rent allowance at rates applicable to Government employees in the respective areas and that teachers in such of the District Board institutions as have not been given the benefit of this allowance be also granted this allowance, at rates applicable to Government employees in such localities '.

* SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Mr. Chairman, this is a Resolution about a matter which has been dealt with on the sacred floor of this House in the form of questions and almost assurances have been given by the Hon. the Minister for Education. This Resolution recommends to the Government that the house-rent allowance which is being given to teachers working in Government institutions for the last fifteen years, that is, from 1946, be extended to all teachers working in aided institutions. By ' all ' I mean all teachers who can claim it under the rules and such of the teachers as are in the district board institutions, where it must have been extended but has not been extended so far. This is a matter on which during question-hour the Hon. the Minister for Education once stated that it was under very active consideration, and again at another time, I speak subject to correction, that the question of grant of this allowance to teachers in high schools was under active consideration, and the question of allowance in respect of elementary schools was not under active consideration. Again it was stated on behalf of the Government that this matter would be dealt with by the Pay Commission. Now the Pay Commission have enlarged the scope of this allowance and the area in respect of which this allowance can be given, and they have also enhanced the rates in respect of the City and bigger municipalities. Sir, in the City, drawing a poor salary, would get Rs. 10 at the minimum. The rate is Rs. 10, 15 and 20. In big municipalities, he will get Rs. 5 to Rs. 12, in small municipalities, Rs. 5, Rs. 7, Rs. 9 or Rs. 12, and in taluk headquarters or divisional headquarters and other smaller municipalities, each teacher would get Rs. 3. Only a few thousands of teachers would get this benefit, though we number a lakh and twenty-five thousand. The cost would come to Rs. 6,00,000. The Government cannot say that they do not have the finances for this purpose. When they have spent already Rs. 10 thousand crores on the two Five-Year Plan and have planned to spend over Rs. 10

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thousand crores on the Third Five-Year Plan, the question of lack of finance cannot come. I am really sorry to submit that it is only a question of lack of mind on the part of the Government to do justice to these teachers. Now the Government have recognised the principle recommended by the Pay Commission that teachers with similar qualifications, though employed under different agencies, are doing national service and that there must be parity in service conditions. Though the Government may find it difficult in some respects and take time, in the matter of finance it is only one stroke of the pen that is wanted to sanction this. Can they at any time say that teachers under aided institutions are not doing national service as teachers in Government institutions are doing? When the Government are ruling the people under the provisions of the sacred Constitution, which says that there should be equality of opportunities, equal pay for equal work, and so on, why should here be this discrimination and disparity even after the recommendations of the Pay Commission have been accepted by the Government? It is a matter of six lakhs of rupees for a Government which gets over Rs. 90 crores per year. Now it really pains me to say that if I go through the budget figures, I see that for the construction of one building alone, the Government spend lakhs of rupees, but here this six lakhs of rupees would go to benefit at least five to six thousand teachers by way of better sanitation and better housing. The teachers are given no special facilities in the Housing Scheme at all. Even for the assignment of buildings, it was stated once by the concerned Minister that teachers should take their chance along with the members of the public and that no preferential treatment would be given to them. After all, the teachers are rendering national service. If national service is to be called cent per cent Government service, then, whatever be the agency under which these teachers serve, whatever be the circumstances under which these agencies have come up, and whatever the reasons for the perpetuation of these agencies, the Government cannot deny that they are doing Government service. It is but right that our enlightened Education Minister who has had some ten years' experience with regard to education and who, I think, is to rise up to further heights, will during his tenure of office, earn the further goodwill of the teachers by sanctioning this paltry sum of six lakhs of rupees when the Government are getting a revenue of Rs. 90 crores. Really this is creating heart-burning. It is a question of discrimination and disparity among teachers of the same qualifications. The Government servants get this house-rent allowance. Because the teachers work in aided institutions, they are denied this. It is not a small sum Rs. 10 to Rs. 20, in a city will go a long way in improving the condition of teachers. The Pay Commission has expressed in its first paragraph with regard to the house-rent allowance that the house-rent forms a major part of the expenditure with regard to the Government employees. How are the teachers not Government employees? It is but right that our present Education Minister who has led other States and shown the way to other States in respect of the triple benefit scheme and so many other schemes should show the way here also and see that the teachers, wherever they may serve,

are given this allowance. The teachers are doing national service. The Government should realise that any heart-burning among the teachers will only produce discontent. We are having so many schemes on which thousands of crores of rupees are being spent. This is only a small thing over which the Government need not hesitate. Realising the gravity of the situation, the Madras Teachers' Guild, of which I was the president for the last two years, staged a big demonstration by leading a thousand teachers to the Secretariat–not, of course, to see the Ministers–but after office hours so as not to disturb the Ministers. Two thousand two hundred and twenty-two petitions were signed by the teachers. The petitions were bound in a beautiful volume, and it must be in the Secretariat. It was sent by registered post acknowledgment due. The matter has been brought to the notice of the Government, and it is not fair on my part to think that our Hon. Education Minister, who is thorough with all the educational problems by his experience does not realise the discontent that non-grant of this allowance can produce in the teachers. It is not a question of all teachers not claiming it. We can do it. We can stage demonstrations. But as I once expressed here during the time of this Minister and during Rajaji's Ministry, the teachers in this State are quiet. They are quiet because of their faith in me that I would be able to do something for them. I do not say that our Minister has not done any thing for them. I am really glad to say that he has granted so many things. We must accept them and show our gratitude for all he has done in kind. It may not be to the degree of expectation of the teachers. The Hon. Minister has practically given the teachers all except this house-rent allowance. So, I would humbly plead, on behalf of the teachers, with the Hon. Minister to see that this allowance is granted.

4–50 p.m. SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in supporting the resolution of Mr. Krishnamoorthy, I want to say only one thing. If the Government find it difficult to accede to his request, at least a beginning might be made by granting house-rent allowance to rest of the Distrcit Board teachers.

SRI T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : No District Board teacher gets house-rent allowance.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Sir, I appreciate the spirit in which the Resolution has been moved. Still, I would like to say that only recently substantial increase in the scales of pay has been granted to all the teachers. If I had just wanted to satisfy in kind the various items of allowances, the scale of pay would not have been raised to the extent it has been done recently. By merely reducing 10 rupees in the scale of pay and adding it under the head, house-rent allowance, Government would have been benefited and many of these things that were given were not given to the teachers on their asking. Many of the concessions and facilities were given to them even when they were not expecting them.

SRI. T. P. SRINIVASAVARADAN : By cutting their pay, the pension would be cut and provident fund also would be reduced.

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : To that extent, the Government would have been benefited. Therefore, I would request the mover of the Resolution to leave it to the Government to take a decision at the appropriate stage to find out whether this also could be given. The hon. Member mentioned a sum of rupees six lakhs. On the other hand, it means 25 lakhs of rupees and I am afraid it cannot be done immediately. So, I would again request the Mover of the Resolution not to press it but to leave it to the Government.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is not the first time such a statement is made by the Hon. the Education Minister.

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : But everytime they have been getting some money.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : If only the Government have been giving voluntarily, it is but right that they did it. If really the Government think the teachers' service is essential. . . .

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : Nobody disputes that point. No use of emphasizing it. Sometimes bad advocacy spoils a good case.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Hon. Minister has made a statement. Whatever the hon. Member is going to say, the Minister's statement is not going to be altered.

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : It is not a question of Government not being convinced of the case. But once the Government have accepted the question of parity in pay scales with regard to teachers of the same qualifications, it is but right that they yield. I am sorry I cannot withdraw the Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is—

" This Council recommends to the Government that teachers in aided elementary and secondary schools in the State be granted House-Rent allowance at rates applicable to Government employees in the respective areas and that teachers in such of the District Board institutions as have not been given the benefit of this allowance be also granted this allowance, at rates applicable to Government employees in such localities ".

The resolution was put and lost.

(5) HANDLOOM SARONGS.

* SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I move—

" This House recommends to the Government to urge upon the Government of India to include the Handloom Sarongs as one of the items for trade agreements with Ceylon, Indonesia and Burma ".

SRI G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : I second it, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Resolution moved—

" This House recommends to the Government to urge upon the Government of India to include the Handloom Sarongs as one of the items for trade agreements with Ceylon, Indonesia and Burma ".